



October 28, 2013

Dear Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee,

The Missaukee Humane Society, established in 1989, is a private animal shelter. Our mission is to protect, shelter, and care for unwanted animals within our communities. We operate as the county's only animal shelter.

Missaukee County has no animal control department. Earlier this spring, animal welfare officials seized over 160 dogs and puppies at a large, illegal breeding operation in northern Missaukee County. The individual kept dogs and puppies in deplorable conditions and did not have a kennel license. Without the help from other agencies, our organization would not have been able to adequately house and shelter this many animals. SB 560 would prohibit individuals from keeping more than 50 breeding dogs in a kennel. We strongly ask for your support for SB 560.

Cat overpopulation is a state wide problem. The reduction of holding times for cats received into shelters means we can place more cats into homes. This will enable us to take in more cats.

Missaukee Humane Society has a firm spay/neuter policy. Animals are not adopted out until they are spayed or neutered. Being able to take in more pets means that we are making sure that whatever animal passes through our doors will not contribute to the population problem in the future.

We ask for your support of SB 560 to help improve standards of care for pets in our county and across Michigan. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Kyle Musselman
Manager

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